



Foggy Bottom News

May 1996

Published by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom and West End

Volume 38, No. 7

Mayor Targets M Street Firehouse

As we go to press, Mayor Barry and the Fire Chief Latin have announced their intention to decrease the fire protection available to Foggy Bottom/West End. The reorganization plans will be formally presented to the D.C. Council later, and will be referred to a Council committee for action. According to Councilmember Jack Evans' office, he is a member of that Committee which is chaired by Councilmember Bill Lightfoot.

One of the proposals is to reassign the fire engine company at the station at 23rd and M Streets, N.W., leaving only a large ladder unit. (The ladder truck currently at the station is 16 years old.) Also proposed is elimination of the engine company at 1617 U Street, which serves as a backup for our area if our primary station is out of service (frequently) or on another call.

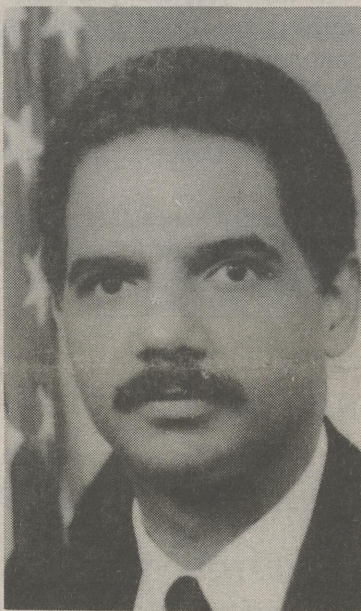
Further information, if available, will be presented at the FBA meeting April 29. Interested residents will want to watch for notice of the hearings on the proposal.

Eric Holder Speaks at April Meeting

Eric H. Holder, Jr., United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, is the featured speaker for the April Foggy Bottom Association meeting. It will be held on Monday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. at the Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

As U.S. Attorney, Holder and his staff are responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases in D.C. Most recently his office was involved with the case against former Congressman Dan Rostenkowski, and negotiated the guilty plea which resulted in a fine and a 17-month prison sentence.

Earlier this year Holder made news by writing at length, in an opinion piece in *The Washington Post*, about what he termed "the crisis that confronts the Metropolitan Police Department." His concerns were for the cuts made in the police budget, the pay cuts and the resulting loss of morale, and its effect on the prosecution of criminal cases by his office. Among the ten suggestions made to help the situation was more involvement by the Federal Government, such as



Eric H. Holder, Jr.

assisting the MPD in forensic science matters and to automate and computerize, and relieving the MPD of the responsibility for security of dignitaries and crowd control at demonstrations.

He praised the department for its majority of good officers, and for their achievements in bringing about a "20 percent decrease in murders over the last two years and similar reductions in other violent crimes," but ex-

continued on page 3

Update . . .

HPRB Approves Modified Entrance for Inn at FB

In the last issue, we reported that in March the Historic Preservation Review Board had rejected the University's proposed design for the new public entrance at 825 - 25th Street. At the April 1996 meeting of the HPRB, the University presented two modified alternatives for the design of the entrance, as well as for GW's sign. The initially proposed canopy would not be constructed, and some other more modern features of the door design would go. Although all the representatives of the community — the ANC Commissioner for the area, Maria Tyler, Larry Myslewski for the Foggy Bottom Conservancy; Mary Jane Shackleford for the petitioners; and the FBA — testified against the public entrance, the HPRB accepted the modified designs, and permitted its staff to choose between them.

In a nutshell, the HPRB felt that the design and appearance of the entrance would not conflict with the historic design of the other buildings in the street. Legally, the HPRB stated that it had no right to consider in its criteria, or comment on, the use of the public entrance, and therefore on the consequences of any additional uses of the street to the Foggy Bottom Historic District.

As to details, in her testimony, Ms. Tyler noted the smallness of the Foggy Bottom Historic District — essentially only a few city blocks — and the fact that the 800 block of 25th Street was at the heart of the Historic District. She analyzed various features of the modified designs, and indicated that the entrance would still become conspicuous and incompatible with the modest historic

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FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

Speaker:

Eric H. Holder, Jr.

**U.S. Attorney
for the District of Columbia**

**Monday, April 29, 1996
Wyndham Bristol Hotel
2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
7:30 p.m.**

(Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 28)

Trachtenberg Delays 25th Street Entrance

President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, at the April meeting of the Foggy Bottom Association, promised to delay the 25th Street door remodeling until residents could have an engineer/architect try to find an alternative. The entrance at the back of the hotel is planned as a handicapped entrance, and residents feel a more satisfactory alternative exists.

Trachtenberg gave the neighbors 30 days to obtain an

opinion by an expert, acceptable to the university, as to the feasibility of another handicapped entrance, possibly via the front entrance on New Hampshire Avenue. The street at the rear, 25th Street, is part of the Foggy Bottom Historic District, and the new and much more elaborate entrance would constitute a new commercial use not permitted by the historic designation.

At a hearing on April 11, the

Historic Preservation Review Board approved the design of the door as compatible with the Historic District. (See separate story on the hearings.)

Points made at the meeting by residents included the fact that the immediate neighbors had no notice of the rehabbing of the building until dumpsters arrived at 5:30 a.m. — illegally — and despite requests from neighbors they were not stopped. Trach-

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GWU "Onward and Westward"

This is a statement I might have made at (the March) meeting if it hadn't turned into such an intransigent — from both sides except for President Trachtenberg — harangue.

I have owned a house in Hughes Mews for the last quarter century. A quarter century before that, when American University had classrooms in Foggy Bottom, I lived in a building that became a GW dormitory. From that perspective, GW has a clear glacial momentum: Onward and westward, and the devil take anybody who happens to be in the way. From the same perspective, the Bank and Fund have the same momentum from a few blocks further east, as shown clearly in the recent "Fantastic Foggy Bottom" exhibit. It's only necessary to stand at 19th and H, where a historic building used to house

the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District, to get a picture of what the next quarter century has in store for the Foggy Bottom Historic District.

H. Robert Slusser

Thanks for HPRB Effort

We would like to publicly thank all of our neighbors in the immediate vicinity of the 25th Street entrance to the Inn at Foggy Bottom who expressed their concerns regarding The George Washington University's proposal to make that a handicapped entrance. Their concerns were based on the facts that the proposal is not compatible with the character of the Foggy Bottom Historic District, and that the changes can be accommodated from the principal entrance on New Hampshire Avenue which, unlike the 25th Street entrance, would meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In a very short period of time, close to 100 people signed the petition in opposition to the changes. All who participated should know that their individual efforts combined to form a record reflecting strong community concern. The petition was discussed at the

Historic Preservation Review Board hearing and was made part of the official HPRB record. Again, many thanks to those who played an important role in opposing another visual intrusion into our small historic district.

Maria Tyler
Jacqueline Lemire
Lawrence Myslewski

A First for the News: A Letter From Costa Rica

I am fortunate in that although I am abroad for over half of each year, a friend forwards the *News* to me. So I am able to keep up with the good news as well as the sad news. Those of us who are able to do little ourselves are all the more indebted to exceptional people like Betty Olsen and the staff of the Foggy Bottom Association who strive year after year under difficult conditions to maintain and improve the way of life of Foggy Bottom.

Eric Norton Ekers
Alajuela, Costa Rica

Mr. Ekers: On behalf of all who "strive," thanks for your encouraging words.



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SUNDAY MASSES

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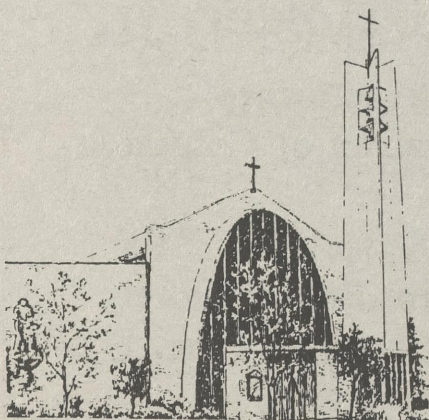
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May 1996

Volume 38, No. 7

Foggy Bottom News

The *Foggy Bottom News* is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Editor Ellie Becker
Ad Manager..... Steve Timlin
Ad Billing Ilona Melstrads

All announcements, letters, articles are welcome but must be typed double spaced. Please include an evening phone number. Send to:

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS
c/o West End Library
24th & L Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

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Copy Deadline: May 3, camera ready: May 10

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Nominating Committee Named

The FBA Nominating Committee has been named, and in compliance with the bylaws was approved by the membership at the March Meeting. Chaired by **Robert Brewster**, the committee is composed of **Jenny Brake, Claire Ciftci, Charles Clapp, and Holsey Handyside**. The committee will be meeting in the next several weeks to select nominees for 1996-97 FBA officers and Executive Board. If you have any suggestions for nominations, please contact any of these committee members.

The elections will be held at the June 24 FBA meeting, and in addition to the elections, D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton has accepted our invitation to speak at the meeting. You will want to put the date on your calendar.

In addition, the bylaws require that members must have paid their dues 30 days prior to the election in order to vote. This year that will be May 25 (three days before the May FBA meeting.)

Thanks for Saving Those Receipts

After many months, the collection of supermarket receipts is over, and we have turned them over to our three schools, Stevens Elementary, Francis Junior High, and School Without Walls.

The total collected in the green boxes in apartment buildings in Foggy Bottom was almost \$77,000 worth, giving each school about \$25,000 in receipts. Gloria Henderson, principal of Stevens, indicated they were trading the receipts for printers this year. The teachers at Francis chose computer-assisted instructional software as did those at the School Without Walls.

Special thanks to **Helen Bryan** of Hamilton House, **Jennie Lazowski** of Jefferson House, **Naomi Mirman** of the Plaza, **Mike Catrone** of 2400 Penn, **Dinanda Nooney** of the Griffin, **Jon Nowick** and **Jessie Stewart** of Potowmac Overlook, **Marie Madon** of West End Place, and **Don Tobey** of the Claridge. Other buildings contributed as well: 2424 Penn, 2401 Penn, the Savoy, Carriage House, the Gibson and 1200 23rd Street. The Athlete's Foot at Connecticut and M supplied the boxes.

Thanks to all who saved their receipts; they do add up to improving our schools.

Ellie Becker

Feeling Lucky?

Join St. Mary's Court for a day trip to Atlantic City on Thursday, May 16. The cost of the trip is \$25 with a \$20 rebate given to each person on arrival at the Sands Casino. The bus leaves St. Mary's Court, 725 24th Street, N.W. at 8:00 a.m. and returns at approximately 10:00 p.m. Call Margaret Pully at 202-223-5712 before May 2 to sign up.

Ward 2 Plan Meetings Schedule

Two meetings for the Ward 2 Plan Amendment Process were held in March and April at the West End Library, another in the Shaw neighborhood in May, and the final two are scheduled for June 6 and June 18 at the Charles Sumner School at 17th

& M Streets. Copies of the Ward 2 Plan can be obtained by contacting the D.C. Office of Planning, 415 12th Street, N.W. Call John Fondersmith, Ward 2 Planner, at 727-6502, or Vanessa Akins at 727-9600 if you have suggestions.

Holder

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pressed his fear that this record may not be continued.

In his present position since 1993, he graduated from Columbia Law School, and joined the Department of Justice, working in the Public Integrity Section, investigating and prosecuting official corruption. In 1988, he became an Associate Judge of the D.C. Superior Court and presided over criminal trials. He is currently active in the Concerned Black Men organization, which works with D.C. youth.

Recycling Schedule Has Changed

The curbside collection of recyclable materials has been changed from weekly to bi-weekly, and the day has been changed from Friday to Tuesday. Following are the days for the rest of the year; you might want to post this list in a convenient place.

April 30
May 14
May 28
June 11
June 25
July 9
July 23
August 6
August 20

September 3*
September 17
October 1
October 15
October 29
November 12
November 26
December 10
December 24

Recyclables which can be picked up are *newspapers, plastic* (look for #1 of #2 on the bottom), *metal and junk mail*. And since they may stay around your homes for longer periods, **RINSE OUT METAL CONTAINERS** — to keep the "critters" away. And heard also that they want materials placed loose in the green bins — that is, not put in bags — the easier, I guess to get it all sorted later on.

*Since September 2 is Labor Day, it is quite possible that both regular trash pickup and recyclables pickup will be delayed until the next day.

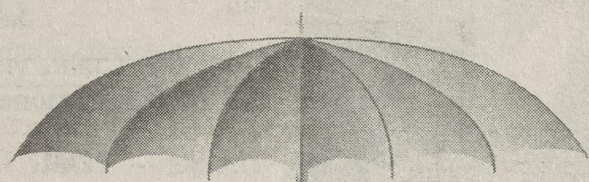


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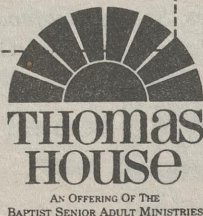
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Francis Junior High Launches Hero Program

Francis Junior High School at 24th and N Streets has launched the **HERO (Healthy Educated Role Models) Program**. Principal **Dr. Courtney L. Fletcher**, Debbie Lockhart, NBC Channel 4 anchorwoman, and Art Monk, famed Washington Redskins wide receiver, introduced the program to the school's 500 students. Ms. Lockhart and Mr. Monk both addressed what it means to be a hero, in the school and in the community. The school selected Mr. Monk and Ms. Lockhart as representatives of those characteristics Dr. Fletcher hopes to encourage in his students: strength of character, ambition and self-respect. Ninth grader Desiree Wilkinson closed the program with Mariah Carey's song "Hero."

HERO is targeted to all students, but membership requires that individuals fulfill certain criteria. Teachers will perform monthly evaluations and students will be asked to write essays concerning their definition of a HERO. Dr. Fletcher anticipates improved academic performance as a result of student's participation in

the program. He said:

"Through this program, students will be encouraged to serve as leaders in the classroom, in the school and in the community. Cooperation between the school and local businesses is a key component of this initiative; we want to demonstrate to the students that their efforts are recognized and appreciated not only by teachers and staff at the local school, but by outside individuals and organizations as well. We hope this will serve as the key to reinforcing students' positive behaviors both within and beyond the school's walls."

Assisted by a team from the Advisory Board Foundation, the Francis faculty established rules for participation. Students must be drug/alcohol/smoke free, complete homework assignments, dress neatly and appropriately, have no suspensions or unexcused absences, and have their parents' endorsement.

Francis Junior High School seeks additional support for the program. Interested establishments should contact Dr. Fletcher at 202-724-4842 or Cindy Palusamy at the Advisory Board Foundation, 202-672-5857.

Foggy Bottom Folks

Our good neighbor and GW professor, **Charles "Puff" Puffenbarger**, has been nominated for a prize for excellence in academic advising by the Columbian School. Winners — and we're sure he'll be one — are being announced at a celebration in mid-May.

The Foggy Bottom Jazzercise class has moved to a new home — at St. Stephen's Parish Hall. The schedule is the same — Monday and Wednesday at 6:45 p.m. and Saturday at 9:00 a.m. The week before the relocation was a busy one for the group. A potluck supper was held at the home of **Bill Hopkins** to celebrate the times at the old location and the move, and it was discovered that not only were the group good cooks, but that they were talented eaters as well. That same week, at a D.C. Jazzercise benefit, the class rounded up over \$1,500 in pledges for breast cancer research. The benefit, the first held by the Jazzercise group for the Komen Foundation, garnered almost \$6,000. Jazzercise also will participate in the Race for the Cure in June, also sponsored by the Komen Foundation.

Our local postal carrier, **Mike White**, again acted as the good friend he is to us all by rescuing house keys left in a door on his route. Seeing that they were given to neighbors was indeed a favor to the forgetful owner.

This spring also was one of the most spectacular for viewing the flowering trees of our area. Bradford pear trees can almost match the beauty of the cherry trees, although the unique setting on the Tidal Basin plain can't be beat. But the view of the line of flowering trees on GWU's property along New Hampshire Avenue, even seen every day on one's way to work, never seems to pall. And there is an attractive array along 26th Street, and on the bank behind the 26th Street park. The latter effectively masks the view across to the underside of the freeway.

FB's own **Sara Maddux** played a caring and official role at the services for Commerce Secretary Ron Brown at the National Cathedral. Sara was the person chosen to escort President Clinton, Vice President Gore and the Brown family to their seats for the solemn occasion.

Regretfully I do not know the

details, but heard of the passing of **Dr. Samuel Rudolph**, who has practiced dentistry in our area for many years. His office was located in the south building of the Claridge for more than 20 years.

Kerry Stowell flew south in early April to South Africa as part of a delegation of the Financial Women's Association of New York. The trip, designed as a business venture, "to determine future investments" there, included visits to Johannesburg, Capetown and the Drakensberg mountains. The group was to meet with President Mandela, Deputy President de Klerk, and the president of the Johannesburg stock exchange.

Prom Garb Being Collected

An organization in Maryland has put out a request for donations of usable prom clothes (dresses and tuxedos). They will be used to make sure that all students can attend proms if they want to without the big expense for clothes. And don't many of us have such items in our closets not being used and which probably never will be? Call 301-422-5022.



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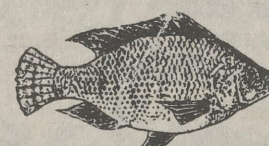
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Update *continued from page 1*

houses on the block. She also noted that the use of the public entrance would engender more commercial activities and traffic than would be compatible with the small-scale and intimate nature of the street and the Historic District. She concluded by stressing that alternatives existed for handicapped access without the need for a new public entrance on 25th Street.

The Foggy Bottom Conservancy showed slides to the HPRB indicating the small-scale nature of the streets, the narrowness of the 800 block of 25th Street and discussed its unsuitability for additional commercial traffic.

FBA's testimony touched all these issues, including the existence of alternatives, but focused on the expanded commercial use that would be generated by the new public entrance — it would be somewhat like adding a new hotel on the small street. FBA noted that the Inn's application and therefore any permit granted by the HPRB would not legally limit the use of the entrance to the handicapped alone. The testimony also emphasized that the HPRB's action might set a precedent that would allow other non-historic or commercial buildings within the the Historic District to seek modifications for other commercial uses that might alter the nature of the Historic District. The possibility of a precedent was of concern to residents of Foggy Bottom and of other historic D.C. districts.

The HPRB emphasized that other regulatory bodies (such as the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs) have jurisdiction over use, and that concerns about use and the impact of uses must be addressed to these bodies. Although at the prior HPRB

meeting one Board member had indicated that use might be a relevant criterion when evaluating this situation, this view was not accepted by the HPRB. Thus as long as the final modified design and appearance seemed reasonable, the HPRB did not wish to second-guess the university on alternatives or uses.

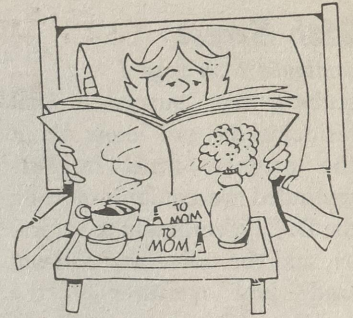
Price Attends Transportation Workshop

The FBA was invited to participate in a workshop sponsored by the District's Department of Public Works called "Mapping the Future of Transportation in the District of Columbia." FBA Board member Richard Price attended on behalf of the Association on March 26.

Building a long-range transportation plan for the District is particularly challenging since the District's future is highly uncertain. In addition, while organizations working collaboratively may be able to influence the city's future, the unique nature of the District and its surrounding region

makes developing a unified vision difficult. The goal of this workshop, as well as earlier ones, was to develop a vision for the transportation needs of the District in the year 2015.

The March workshop revolved around a discussion of issues of concern to neighborhoods and organizations. The workshop's leaders seemed to agree that the District should promote environmentally friendly systems and mass transit alternatives to single occupancy vehicles in order to relieve current and future congestion and to support the goals of the the Clean Air Act. Other issues discussed included the impact of commuter



traffic on residential neighborhoods and the need to find attractive streetscape designs for areas where traffic inevitably intruded on such areas. This meeting represented a second step (the first being a 3-day meeting of opinion leaders in 1994) toward developing a comprehensive transportation plan for the District. Stay tuned.

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Services Available to the Neighborhood

The following free or moderately priced services are offered through The George Washington University and available to residents of Foggy Bottom/West End Neighborhoods:

- Gelman Library and Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library (free, limited hours)
- GW Medical Center as well as periodic health screenings and medical lectures (free)
- University Police escorts when leaving GW events (free)
- Improvements to Francis Field (free)
- Legal assistance and counseling through Jacob Burns Community Legal Clinic (free)
- Senior citizen shopping and errand services are available from several GW student organizations (free)
- Senior citizen discounts to GW theatrical and musical events
- Smith Center athletic facilities in the summer for a small fee
- Participation in the Alumni Course Audit Program through GW Office of Alumni Relations for a nominal fee

Neighbors Working With Neighbors

The George Washington University also offers continuous cooperation and participation in community improvement measures. Safety improvement measures include: Winter snow removal and repair of university sidewalks; The installation of approximately 150 new lights in areas such as Medical Center Plaza, Gelman Yard and in and around public streets; Clean-up efforts include working with the West End Citizens Association to clear illegal posters and graffiti, removal of bulk items at the end of spring and fall semesters for students living in off-campus rental properties; And assistance with D.C.'s "adopt-a-park" program at Triangle Park and other park spaces.

The George Washington University realizes the responsibility to educate its own students through its Code of Student Conduct to make them better neighbors and there is "A Quick Guide" for appropriate conduct for off-campus students.

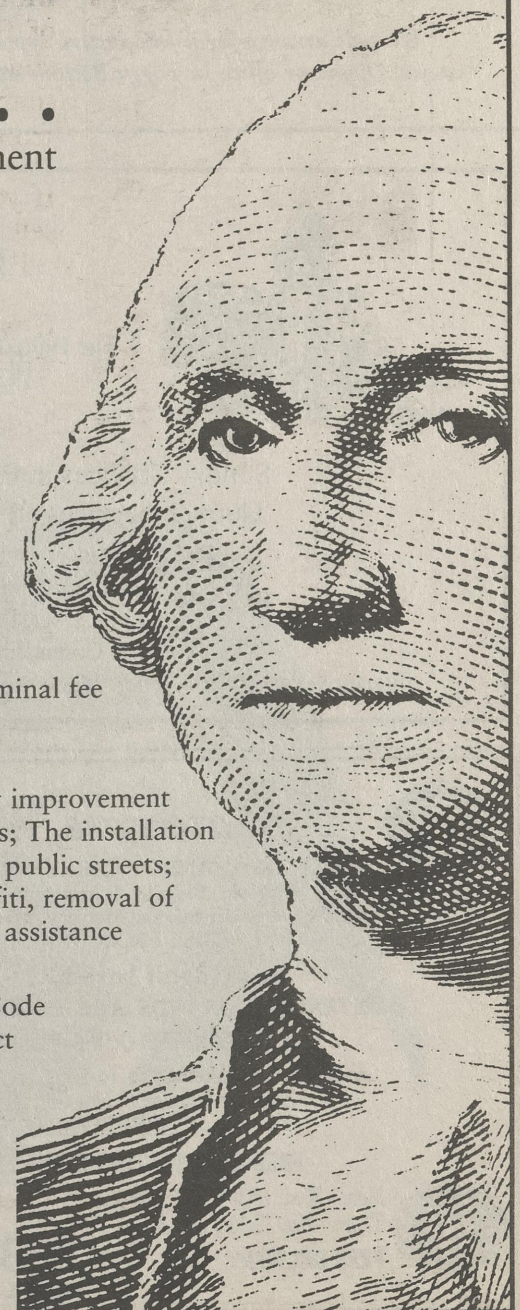
By continuously addressing community needs and providing support to the Foggy Bottom/West End neighborhoods, The George Washington University strives to be a vital part of the community.

Questions? Call Jane Lingo at (202)994-6466.

GW is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution



175TH ANNIVERSARY 1821-1996



25th Street

continued from page 1

tenberg was surprised that residents did not know about the project, until he was reminded we couldn't rely on the D.C. government to inform us, and the university had not made any overtures to the hotel's neighbors.

In addition, there is a ban on buses on 25th Street, and hotel personnel have frequently instructed buses to travel on the street and discharge passengers — not necessarily handicapped persons — in defiance of the ban. Residents fear this will increase if the handicapped entrance is built on 25th Street.

Other subjects covered by Trachtenberg:

(1) His feelings that some progress has been made in the eight years he has been here. He even admitted that he was "instinctively sympathetic" to FB residents, but now also has sympathy for the university in its efforts to work with the community because of a few "onery cusses."

(2) There is "more talking and

less fingerpointing than eight years ago," with different issues, some of which will persist and be ongoing, but some solutions are being worked out.

(3) There is an increasing use of the university by residents — courses being taken, use of the Gelman Library, attendance at various lectures and gallery functions, to name a few. He also cited the university's efforts to enhance the appearance of its campus and the adjoining FB area, as well as the broadening of its security patrols into off-campus streets as well.

(4) When asked about the fate of the hospital, Trachtenberg stated that it is experiencing the same problems as all others around the country; it provides \$30 million in uncompensated care, making it difficult to run properly and impossible to upgrade to a state-of-the-art facility, which would take from \$150-\$200 million. Their goal, he explained, was to keep a hospital in Foggy Bottom by finding a partner with capital and strong skills, but keeping a

commitment to charity care, to training of doctors and to research. There have been talks with several organizations but they are not in the final stages with any of them at this point.

"No single hospital is going to be able to withstand the onslaught of losses such as urban hospitals are now experiencing, and they are going to have to partner or find other ways to run themselves; otherwise they are going to disappear."

A question was asked about the property across the street which has been mentioned for hospital use. Trachtenberg said no decision has been made but suggestions had been made to build a smaller facility there instead of renovating the old hospital, while keeping the old hospital open, then turn the old facility into something else. Another possibility might be a facility for the elderly similar to St. Mary's Court. His remark that "left to its own devices, the FBA would have student housing" there brought heavy applause and agreement.

On the opposite page are some of Foggy Bottom's sweetest and newest. These neighborhood children and their mothers send a beautiful and clear message for May and MOTHERS' DAY — a reminder of how precious life really is. They are from top right in clockwise order: James Daniel (4 years) and Marianne Black, Meredith Clay (2-1/2 months) and Kathy Bessant, Wang Yuan Xu (2-1/2 years) and Wang Bin, Morgan O'Connell (9 months) and Ashana Andrew, Yifei (6 years) and Xian Dong Zhang.

Photos by J.R. BLACK

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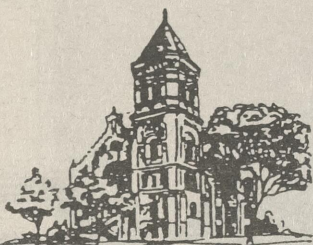
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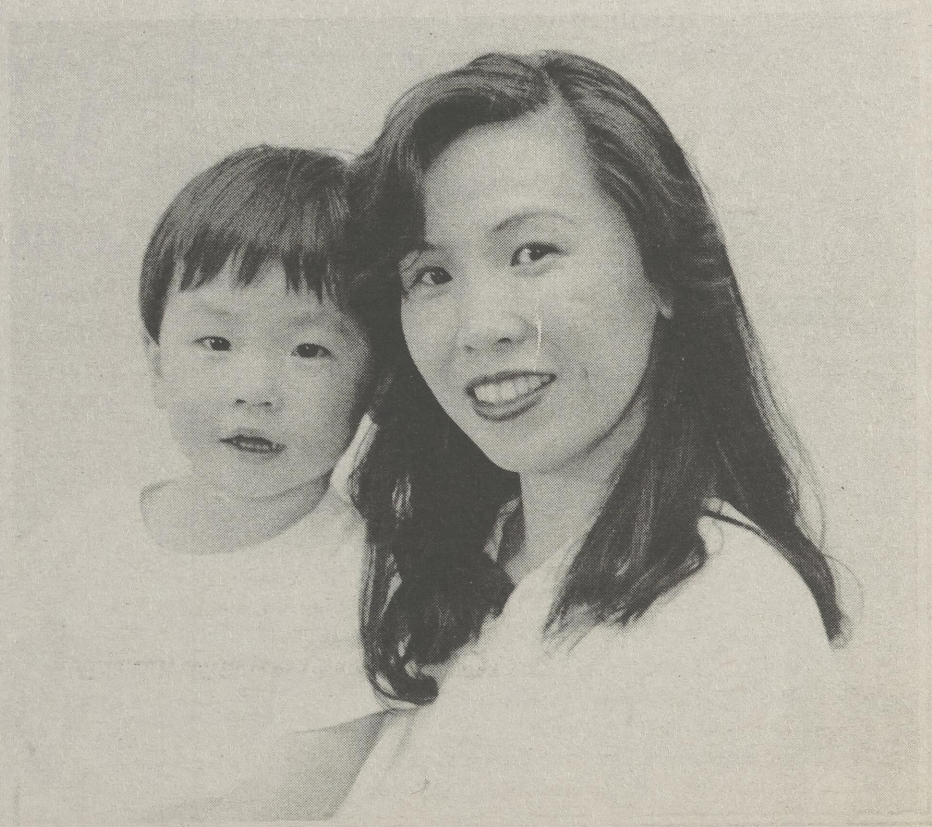
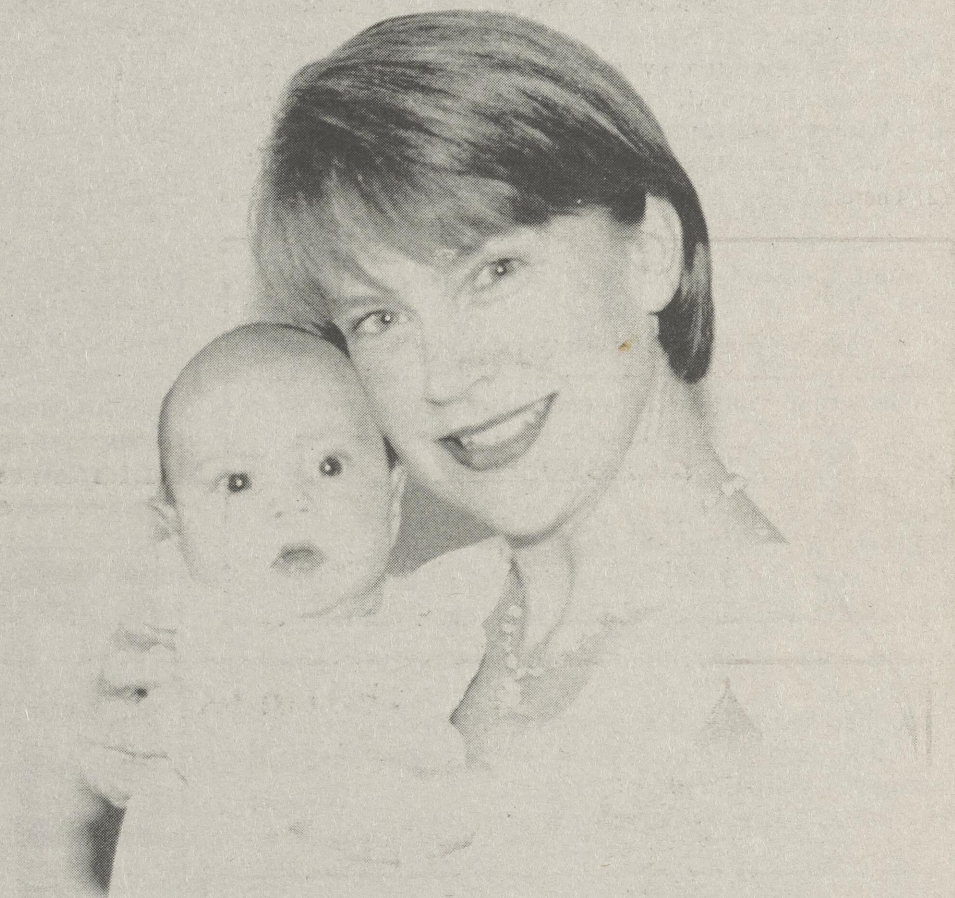
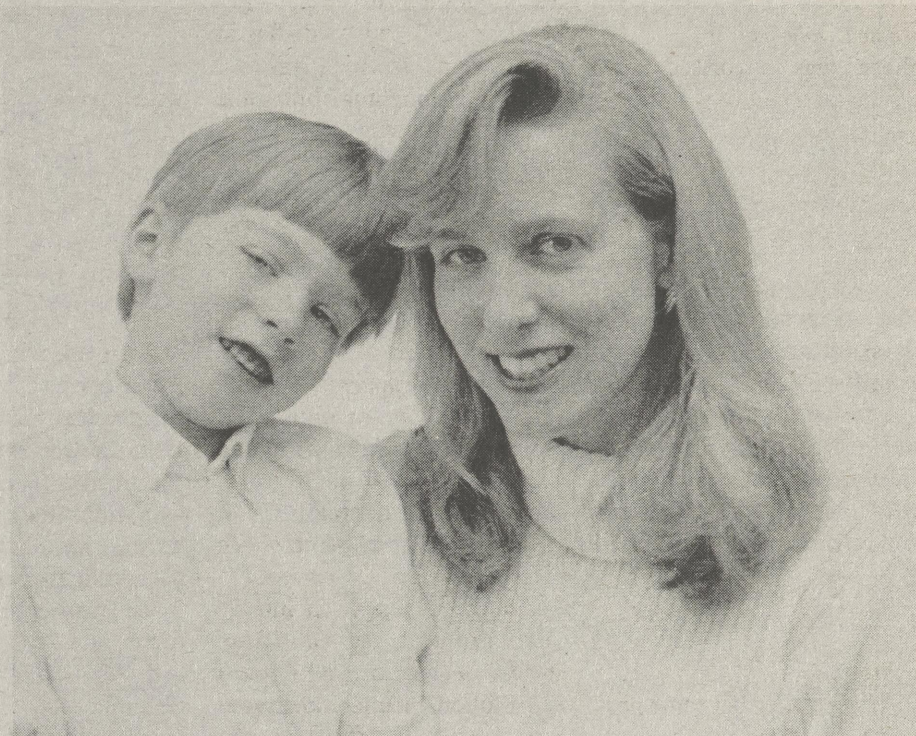
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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Darkness at Sunset¹

I can remember Mom, when she was quite young,
She had lovely hands, and a bosom of fun.
Seven children she bore, with the stately posture
of a queen.

I enjoyed sitting across her lap,
Though I was at least sixteen.

She never once removed her snug wedding band,
Which now slips loosely about the slim fingers of her soft,
But aged hand.

Dad often called her "Battleaxe;"
In more tender moods, "Sunshine."

I had never once witnessed any affectionate display
towards Dad;

Their love, to the children seemed, an esoteric thing,
Their entire marriage had been a clandestine fling.

When I was disoriented and stranded, for a year or more,
She travelled long distances by bus, making many
connections,

Carrying me bags of fresh fruit,
And missing never a visiting day.

She was both "Doctor" and "Loyal Friend,"
Throughout my entire stay.

For her "practical Wisdom," I owe my life's breath;
If it hadn't been for her womanly instinct,
She understood my case so well . . .
If it hadn't been for her strength and determination,
I'd be but a discarded and vacant shell.

She played ragtime with a robust beat,
Up until her waning years.

Trading the study of music to marry Dad,
She left her tutor in tears.

In weaker moments, she had doubts about her youthful
decision,

While thoughts of fame threatened a marital collision.

At the age of eighty,
Her fumbling fingers stumbled over the keys.
Soon, she was unable to clear the piano bench,
As time had buckled her knees.

I brought home Scott Joplin records, as second best,
But Mom's ragtime style, far surpassed the rest.

One evening, I had noticed how horribly thin she had
become.

I touched her brow, it appeared distended and numb.
It was no less, the impression left by her naked skull,
Beneath its prominence,
Her cavernous eyes betrayed a wistful lull.

A strident ambulance could be heard streaking down
the street.

"They do make an awful lot of noise," I said,
My annoyance replete.

She lifted her sad eyes towards me to reply:

"It sounds like they're saying,
'w-h-Y? w-H-y? W-H-Y?'"

I laughed at her and said, "Mom, that's cute."

Seldom she shared her impressions,
Becoming more reticent and mute.

When the Pastor arrived, I told him what Mom had said
to me,

And what a clever remark, it seemed to be.

The Pastor shot me a look that was stark.

Suddenly trapped, I was forced to face up to the remark.

He tactfully changed the subject to a lighter tale,
Which amused Mom, making her laugh at a moment's lark,
Dispelling thoughts of dying that imprisoned her,
in the dark.

Totally confined to her rocking chair,

She would sit listlessly,

Listening unconsciously, to the drone of TV.

She was suffering terribly, her lips distorted,

With an expression of anguish,

Unbearable but thwarted.

"Mom," I said, "Wouldn't you be more comfortable in
bed?"

"I hate to go to bed while the sun is still shining . . ."

This time, I did not laugh, I wanted to cry, instead.

Nevertheless, the distressing questions,

'w-h-Y? w-H-Y? W-h-Y?'"

Have never been known to transgress,

Nor, have they ever left,

The Voiceless Lips of Death!

¹Edith Perruso, "Darkness at Sunset" in *Our Twentieth Century's Greatest Poems*, ed. John Campbell, (Sacramento CA: World of Poetry Press 1982), p. 636.

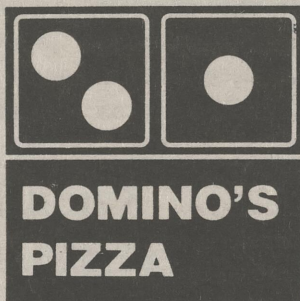
The Grand Becomes The Westin

The Grand Hotel, located on the southeast corner of 24th & M Streets, has become The Westin Hotel, and is owned by Starwood Lodging Corporation. The new Westin is across the street from the ANA Hotel, which was built by Westin in 1985, owned by Westin until 1990, and managed by Westin until 1994.

Westin Hotels & Resorts, according to John Onorio, hotel general manager, has made extensive renovations under the direction of interior designer Carlos Lascaris, and features an executive club floor designed with business amenities. The property, built in 1984, has 263 rooms, including 25 suites, and features an executive club floor. Special features are the bathrooms which have floor-to-ceiling Portuguese marble tiles, an Italian marble vanity, unique bathtubs and separate showers. The hotel has eight meeting rooms and two restaurants, the Promenade and the Cafe on M.

Watergate Hotel To Celebrate 30th Year

In preparation for its 30th anniversary, the Watergate Hotel has launched The Watergate Hotel Anniversary Club. The one-time annual membership fee is \$225, with special discounts on cocktails, meals, including dining at The Palladin Restaurant, and special accommodation packages as well. Call Pat McCune, Membership Representative, Anniversary Club, at 342-8090 for information.



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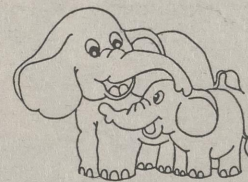
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